

REMARKS

Claims 19-22 and 24-30 are currently pending in the present application.

Claims 19 and 28 have been amended to clarify certain aspects of Applicants' claimed invention in accordance with the comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action. The amendments to claims 19 and 28 clarify that the reduced carbon fiber content of the material is expressed as a percentage by weight, and the additional amendment to claim 28 clarifies the carbon fiber content reducing effect of the claimed "removing." Claim 19-22 and 24-30 are no narrower than prior to the amendments made herein. The amendments to claims 19 and 28 are solely to clarify what was already inherently expressed therein. Support for the amendments made herein to claims 19 and 28 can be found in Applicants' specification.

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made herein to claims 19 and 28 introduce no new matter. Moreover, *as explained further below*, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made to claims 19 and 28 place the application in condition for allowance. This response contains a complete listing of all claims ever presented including the amendments made herein in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(i). Accordingly, entry and consideration of the amendments made herein are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd Paragraph:

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 19-22 and 24-30 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner contends that it is unclear whether the percent value is based on weight or volume. (*See*, the final Office Action, p. 2, ¶ 5). While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner as to any lack of clarity, but rather in an effort to expedite prosecution of the pending claims, Applicants have amended claims 19 and 28 to specifically refer to percent by weight (e.g., "wt. %").

Additionally, in the Office Action, the Examiner contends that claim 28 is unclear as to whether "removing graphite" achieves the claimed surface having a reduced fiber content. Claim 28 has been amended to remove any perceived ambiguity in this regard.

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are clear and definite and comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly,

reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Conclusion:

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Additionally, as acknowledged by the Examiner in the Office Action at pages 3-4, ¶¶ 11-13, all claims patentably distinguish over the prior art of record and known to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration, withdrawal of all rejections and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Dated: November 14, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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